

Amendments to the Claims:

A clean version of the entire set of pending claims, including amendments to the claims, is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121(c)(3). This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for open circuit voltage regulation for an electronic ballast, the method comprising:

providing a resonant tank circuit connected to an output of the electronic ballast;

providing a regulating pulse width modulator having an output voltage threshold limit;

sensing a tank current in the resonant tank circuit to produce an output voltage ~~from the electronic ballast to generate a sensed output voltage signal;~~

comparing the sensed output voltage signal to the output voltage threshold limit; and

limiting the output voltage when the sensed output voltage signal exceeds the output voltage threshold limit by limiting a pulse width of pulses output from the regulating pulse width modulator.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 wherein sensing the tank current comprises sensing a voltage across a resistance between a resonant capacitor and a common rail.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A system for open circuit voltage regulation for an electronic ballast, the system comprising:

pulse width modulating means for modulating a pulse width of pulses, said pulse width modulation means having an output voltage threshold limit;

a resonant tank circuit connected to an output of the electronic ballast;

~~means for sensing an output voltage from the electronic ballast~~ a tank current in the resonant tank circuit to generate a sensed output voltage signal;

means for comparing the sensed output voltage signal to the output voltage threshold limit; and

means for limiting the output voltage when the sensed output voltage signal exceeds the output voltage threshold limit by limiting the pulse width of the pulses.

7-8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8 wherein the means for sensing the tank current comprises means for sensing a voltage across a resistance between a resonant capacitor and a common rail.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) An open circuit voltage regulation circuit for an electronic ballast, the regulation circuit comprising:

~~an filament current sensing~~ a resonant tank circuit operably connected to an output of the electronic ballast and generating a sensed output voltage signal; and

a regulating pulse width modulator receiving the sensed output voltage signal and operably connected to control a voltage at the output of the electronic ballast, the regulating pulse width modulator having an output voltage threshold limit;

wherein the regulating pulse width modulator limits the voltage at the output of the electronic ballast when the sensed output voltage signal exceeds the output

voltage threshold limit by limiting a pulse width of pulses output from the regulating pulse width modulator.

12-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The circuit of claim 11 further comprising a tank circuit ~~operably connected to the output of the electronic ballast and having a resonant capacitor, and the filament current sensing circuit comprises~~ comprising a resistance between [[the]] a resonant capacitor of the resonant tank circuit and a common rail.

15. (Previously Presented) The circuit of claim 14 wherein the regulating pulse width modulator has a set trip level for the output voltage threshold limit and the resistance is sized so that the sensed output voltage signal exceeds the set trip level when the electronic ballast has an open circuit.

16. (Previously Presented) The circuit of claim 11 further comprising a high voltage driver operably connected to be driven by the regulating pulse width modulator, and the regulating pulse width modulator limits the voltage at the output of the electronic ballast by driving the high voltage driver at a limited pulse width.

17-18. (Canceled)